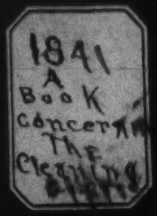

PAPERS
OF
SHAKERS

130

~~OHIO~~
~~Union Village~~
N. Y.
New Lebanon

NO. 130

A Law and Statute to be kept for ten years to come, thro'out Mount Zions land, both for the protection and mortification; and in remembrance of holy and Eternal Mother Wisdom's searching work, saith the Lord God.

Dec. 11th 1841.

Bow down, O ye inhabitants of Zion, which I have planted on the earth (saith the Lord,) wherein I have placed Laws for her protection, that she might remain from age to age, the object of my peculiar delight.

But her inhabitants have gone far, far astray, her children have departed from my pure common do; and bowed themselves to other Gods than me. And what do I now find among you? Ayea saith the Lord

of Hosts, I find you worshipping gods that well please your lusts, and almost every species of abomination.

I say I find these things within the walls of my Zion, hoarded up and concealed from my true and living witnesses. And for this reason ye have greatly provoked me to anger, and have tempted me to spew you from my presence, and cast you afar off.

But for the sake of the righteous souls that dwell therein, I have thus far spared many that remain within her walls, who are ripe, yea fully ripe for my just judgement saith the God of heaven.

And the spirit of my Eternal brightness shall again this once

pass thro her, to cleanse her from her abominations. And if there is any ~~thing~~ place within her walls that cannot be cleansed, it shall surely be accursed in my sight, and shall never prosper ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ from this time henceforth, saith the God of Heaven, and it shall become a stink in my sight.

And this is my decree which I send forth to the inhabitants of Zion upon Earth; and they that are ashamed and shrink back from going forth to obey this my commandment, I will cast them from my presence, and number them not in my Zion, saith the Lord.

For to... For years ~~to~~ once ye shall keep a day ... ll
ye shall rise at four Oclock in

morning, and at half past 4, ye shall assemble in your meeting rooms, and sing my words which I have sent as a scourge upon the inhabetants of my Zion, and for a terror to the wicked that surround them.

Then ye shall kneel down and bow your faces four times to the floor, in remembrance of, and in gratitude and thanks to your Blessed Mother Ann, and the rest of your Heavenly Parents, that have worked with her, in this late manifestation.

For their earnest entreaties unto me, the Lord God of Heaven in your behalfs And no songs of joy, and mirth shall be sounded within Zion's walls this day.

Let no kind of flesh meat enter your mouths upon this day, but bread & water alone shall be your supper; at 6 O clock ye shall partake, and let your two other meals be very plain and simple.

Further Orders of the day.

It shall be the duty of the leading influence (those in care) in every Society, that in case this day should come upon the Sabbath, or in a very stormy time to transfer it to the next.

It shall furthermore be the duty of the Elder brethren to select in small families, as much as four of the singing brethren who shall learn well the song before spoken of

And their Elders, both if able, shall march with them, thro' all their out-buidings barns, sheds, hogpens, and stables, and singing with shame the words of this song which I have sent unto you

I do not say that you shall sing no other, but ye shall sing none but what shall convey the same sensation in words and feeling, that God is displeased with because of the abominations that have been and still are committed in Zion

This ye shall do in your small families before the hour of 12. and at one in the afternoon ye shall again commence your march thro your fields & groves, especially those that lay within one hundred and fifty rods

of your buildings. And ye shall sing this song and others like unto it, and ye shall continue your singing the most part of the time. The singers may spell each other & at times they may all rest according as the wisdom of the Elders may direct.

And all those whom I cause to go forth in this gift, shall labor to feel my holy power and indignation against the filthy and beastly abominations which mankind are continually committing, and which have defiled Zion.

And wherever, whether in doors or out, ye can feel there has been any of these abominations committed ye shall shake in my holy power, with indignation against it;

ye shall also kneel down and pray (if it has been honestly confessed) that it may be blotted out; and if not confessed, that it may fall in judgement upon the one who committed it, and by this means be removed from Zion.

In all large families, the Elders may select a band of singers, from eight to twelve in number, or if they have a large range to go over, each one of the Elder Brethren may take a band of singers, and go forth in different directions; and such other brethren as the Elders may feel to select to march with them they have liberty so to do.

The same regulations I require of the sisters in all respects, only they shall not march in the out

buildings, nor in the Brethren's shops. And if the weather be pleasant, they may march and sing in the dooryards

After 6 O clock at evening, a chosen band of both Brethren & Sisters shall march all thro their dwelling houses, and dwelling rooms, from the garret to the cellar, and sing as they march. And on this day let all Zion's children be at home if possibly consistent.

Further Orders of the Day

It shall be the duty of Elders in the morning meeting to lay all the family under a strict charg to faithfully improve all their time in this day, to clean up all their nasty dirty places, and to put every thing in order.

It shall furthermore be the duty of the Elders in the morning meeting to charge the family Deacons (where there are such established) to see that every member is faithfully employed in this labor thro the day, while they (the Elders) attending to the other part ~~Brother~~ which I have laid upon them saith the Lord.

For lo! I the Lord your God will draw nigh unto my people on this day. Hearken and understand, O ye inhabitants of Zion, thro all your dwellings let the holy and solemn fear of God be felt in every heart.

And from your morning meeting untill 12 O'clock midday, you shall keep in commemoration of Holy and Eternal Mother Wisdom's cleansing and heartsearch-

ing work among you. And from 12 untill you lie down to rest at night ye shall keep in remembrance of the great and loving kindness of the Lord your God in withholding heavy judgements from being poured forth upon you, in the days of his great displeasure against Zion for her many transgressions.

And if my commandments ye strictly obey, this day shall be kept to my acceptance, but if ye slight and disregard it, I will slight and disregard you, and blot out your names from the Holy Book of Life, saith the Lord your God.

And if any of the children of this world should ask you why you do so, ye shall answer

them that, "The Lord our God hath commanded us this to do, and his commandments we will obey. And let this answer suffice in general.

End.

Transcribed, Sep 18th 1842.

Ch. New Lebanon

September 12th 1845.

A preparatory word, to call the attention of every one to the work which we are now about to perform.
It is to be read previous to the cleansing gift.

From the first opening of the Gospel in this land, by our ever blessed Mother Ann, and the Elders with her; we have received much counsel and instruction concerning neatness prudence & good economy. Yea we have been taught it in every point place and case, how to save all: and that every thing that is lost will to be a loss to the soul who is the cause of this loosing.
And again many now living

do bear witness that Mother never visited any family (while she was in the body,) without teaching them to be neat clean and industrious, and to teach the same to their children. And to know for certain that an idle person tempts the Devil, and an idle child the Devil will set to work.

So it is evident that idleness is not only a loss but it begets sin, and brings forth many disorders, and produces many hard feelings which shut away the gifts of God, (this all will acknowledge.) Then how important it is that youth and children are brought up in the way they should go, that they may

become an honor to the Church of God here on Earth.

Not long since a man of the world published a piece in a newspaper, in which he stated that "the Shakers were the same let their location be where it may. They will be known by their neatness prudence and good economy. Their motto is et place for every thing and every thing in its place."

Is this the case with all of us? Are our buildings beginning at the Dwellinghous and ending at the poorest out buildings that we possess, kept in that neat order that is required of the people of God, that they may be an example to the unbelieving world?

Are our clothes kept in their proper places, and are they clean and well mended? Does all change their clothes according to their work? And when we leave work at night to come into a clean house, are our dirty clothes taken off and hung up decently untill they are wanted again? This is required of both brethren and sisters.

How is it about shoes boots, and over socks? Are they kept suitably greased, clean and well mended, and then put in some clean suitable place when not in use? Are all kinds of tools put up in good order, so that it can be said in truth "a place

for every thing, and every thing in its place".

It has been observed that by the dress of a person they might be known. This does not imply that one must be dressed in fine nice clothes; but that they must be clean and well mended, and decently put on. And when any one or ones, are called to do any dirty jobs, dress accordingly. But don't go to dirty nor let your children.

Sisters in the ketchen ought to be clean in their person as well as in their work.

And furthermore are all

faithful to see that our Dwellinghouses, work-shops, Store houses &c, are all fastned according to the rules given.

Are the dooryards, stone walks, and all around our buildings kept clean?

Are the windows mended when broken? Are the bars and gates in good repair?

Are the Carts waggons sleighs and sleds, all in good repair and placed under cover?

These are but few things out of many that might be mentioned. But do let every one look about and strive mightily not to become a reproach and dishonor to the

way of God, and to those who have striven diligently for many years to teach and establish cleanliness, prudence, and industry with every other Gospel virtue.